IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing, by an Ethernet MAC (Medium Access Control) layer, a packet ~~being~~ received from a physical layer ~~by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet, the method comprising acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer~~ and intended, after reception, for transmission to a layer above the MAC layer, ~~said acts~~ comprising:

receiving, at the MAC layer, said packet

~~a) storing a received portion of the packet being received~~ from the physical layer;

detecting for error while transmitting the received packet to said layer above; and,

upon detection of said error,

a) stopping said transmitting to said layer above; and

b) sending, to said layer above, a signal indicating the occurrence of error and a signal indicating an end of the packet.~~;~~

~~b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch; and,~~

~~c) upon, and in the event of, error being detected during said transmitting,~~

~~i) stopping said storing, and said transmitting, of said packet being received; and~~

~~ii) sending, to said switch, a signal indicating occurrence of the error~~

~~and a signal indicating an end of said packet being received.~~

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein the method further comprising the step of~~ preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the packet in which the error is detected.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said ~~storing is to a~~ storage memory compris<u>es</u>~~ing~~ a FIFO (First-In, First-Out) memory.

5. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for processing, by an Ethernet MAC (Medium Access Control) layer, a packet ~~being~~ received from a physical layer ~~by a MAC layer of an Ethernet, the method comprising acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer~~ and intended, after reception, for storage in a storage memory at the MAC layer and transmission, after storage of the packet in said storage memory, to a layer above the MAC layer, the packet having a size, ~~said acts~~ comprising:

detecting for error while receiving, at the MAC layer, said ~~a) storing a received portion of the~~ packet ~~being received~~ from the physical layer; and,

upon detection of error,

a) regardless of said size, preventing the storage, of said packet, in said storage memory at the MAC layer, thereby preventing said transmission to said layer above ~~b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch; and~~

~~c) upon, and in the event of, error being detected while said portion is being received from the physical layer,~~

~~i) stopping said storing, and said transmitting, of said packet being received;~~ and

i~~i~~b) sending, to ~~said switch~~ said layer above, a signal indicating occurrence of ~~the~~ error and a signal indicating an end of said packet ~~that is being received~~.